Vol. III. Numb. 121.

The British Apollo:

OR,

Curious Amuſements for the INGENIOUS.

To which are Added the moſt

Material Occurrences Foreign and Domeſtick.

Perform'd by ſome of the Society of GENTLEMEN, *Concern'd in the Firſt and Second* VOLUME, *with the Aſſiſtance of other Ingenious* PERSONS.

From Friday December 29th. to Monday January 1ſt. 1711.

WHEREAS the Subſcribers to this Paper (laſt Quarter) paid their Money to a Servant of the Proprietors; it being too much Trouble for one to gather in the ſame; you are therefore deſired to pay it to the Men as formerly, who will give you a Printed Receipt for the ſame, Sign'd by,

J. Mayo.

GENTLEMEN,

Q. I *Find Authors differ very much in Opinion, concerning the Occaſion of celebrating the Feaſt of* Epiphany, *and the Original and Meaning of that Name. Some ſay it was ſo called in Reſpect of the viſible opening of the Heavens, and deſcending of the Holy Ghoſt upon Chriſt at his Baptiſm. Others derive it from the firſt appearing of the Star in the Eaſt to the Wiſemen, mentioned* Mat. 2. 2. *which indeed might well enough be upon the Twelfth Day after Chriſt's Birth. Others are of Opinion that it Reſpects the appearing again of the ſame Star to the Wiſemen, when they drew toward the end of their long Journey from their Country to* Bethlehem, v. 9. *which upon conſideration of all the Circumſtances of that Story, cou'd not be till a Year or two after its firſt appearance. Laſtly, ſome wou'd have the Word to ſignify no more than the Birth of* Chriſt, *which is ſometimes by the Ancient Fathers called* Ἐπιφάνια *and* Θεοφάνια, *and may be applied to the laſt as well as the firſt Day of that great Feaſt. Be pleaſed to inform me which of theſe Opinions you judge to be moſt Orthodox and Conſiſtent with the Senſe of Antiquity. For I think it to be a Matter of more than meer Curioſity to know upon what occaſion that Feſtival was inſtituted, and what Diſpenſation or Mercy of God we ought chiefly to commemorate thereupon.*

Your Humble Servant, &c.

A. Through the Silence of Ancient Writers, we cannot define any Thing poſitively concerning this Matter: Notwithſtanding we incline to the laſt Opinion, upon the Authority of this Expreſſion of *Epiphanius*, Τῇ ἡμέρᾳ των Ἐπιφανίων ὅτε ἐγεννήθη ἐν σαρκὶ, &c. *on the Day of the Epiphany, when Chriſt was Born in the Fleſh*; and becauſe the ſame Author affirms, that many Orthodox *Chriſtians* in *Egypt* kept the Feaſt of the Nativity on the Day of Epiphany. And ſo it is not improbable, that the Original of this Name is owing to the Expreſſion of St. *Paul* (Tit. 2. 11.) *The Grace of God which bringeth Salvation* ἐπιφάνη *hath appeared to all Men.* Though that *Chriſt* was alſo Baptiſed on this Day, cannot be denied, ſince Dr. *Hammond* informs us, that *Alcas Cyriacus* (an *Arabick* M. S. in the *Bodleian* Library) calls the ſixth of *January*, the Feaſt of Epiphany or Benediction of Waters. And ſo *Savid Aben Batrick* (a M. S. *Arabick* Hiſtorian) affirms, *That our Lord and Redeemer Jeſus Chriſt was Born upon the* 25th *of December, and upon the* 6th *of January was the Epiphany or Baptiſm of Chriſt.* The ſame was atteſted by *Johannes Antiochenus* and ſome others. And accordingly the Church of *England* hath appointed the Second Leſſon for the Morning Service to be of the Baptiſm of *Chriſt*. *Luke* 3. Though with Reſpect alſo to the vulgar Tradition, that Epiphany means the appearing of the Star to the *Magi*, the Firſt Leſſon, as alſo the Collect, and Epiſtle and Goſpel, are concerning the Manifeſtation of *Chriſt* to the Gentiles.

Q. APOLLO, *I deſire to know how long it was between* Adam's *Sinning and his Sacrificing. A ſpeedy Anſwer will very much Oblige,*

Your Subſcriber, J. T.

A. The Scripture being ſilent in this Point, and we having no other Authentic Hiſtory of the Antediluvian

tediluvian Patriarchs, we muſt lay under the Mortification of not ſatisfying our Queriſt in this Important Queſtion.

Q. Gentlemen, *Pray, why has one Month more Days than another, and why has* February *fewer Days than any other Month? A ſpeedy Anſwer will highly Oblige,*

Yours, W. B.

A. The Ancient *Albans*, from whom the *Romans* deſcended, begun their Year with the Month of *March*, and reckoned but 10 Months to the Year, of which 6 contained 30 Days a Piece, and the other 4 31, in all 304 Days. Which Computation being alſo uſed by the *Romans* themſelves, 'till the Time of *Numa Pompelius*, he made a Reformation of their Calendar and added to their Year 51 Days, of which, with the Addition of 6 other Days, which he took from the 6 Months that contained 30 Days a Piece, he made two new Months *January* and *February*, of which the firſt contained 31 Days, and the other 28. By which means all the Months of the Year came to have an odd Number of Days, exeepting *February*, for that Reaſon eſteemed by them the more unlucky. And that the Civil might in ſome meaſure equal the Solar Year, it was farther provided, that an Intercalary Month conſiſting of 22 or 23 Days, be added to every other Year. But this Regulation being not found exact enough, *Julius Cæſar* put his finiſhing Hand to it, by taking away the Intercalary Month, and inſtead of it adding to the Year 10 Days, which he diſtibuted amongſt the Months that had but 29 Days a Piece, in the ſame manner as they have continued ſince: So that *February* remained in its Ancient State, ſaving that every fourth Year it has a Day added to it.

Q. Gentlemen, *A great Pretender to Operations on the Eyes of late takes upon him, to attempt a great many uncommon Cures, Wry Necks,* &c. *Now do you think it Prudent in him, or adds to his Character to undertake ſo many things, and what may we chiefly conclude by his doing ſo? If he be in the Right, why ſhou'd not* Mr. Grant *do the ſame, ſince to ſhew his Superior Skill, he hath Cur'd Eyes, after the other had Tamper'd with them in vain, as I have heard from divers Perſons: His Reputation being alſo ſo much advanc'd, by his being in ſo partieular manner Sworn,* Oculiſt in EXTRAORDINARY to Her Majeſty.

Your Admirer, T. C.

A. The Cures you hint at, are ſomething uncommon, and it will appear an uncommon thing in that Perſon, if he effects them, but not at all uncommon for him to pretend thereunto. We think it takes from any Artiſt to pretend to too many things. King *Charles* the Second, having heard a great Artiſt, ſtill living, play on the Violin with a maſterly Touch, adviſed him by all means to lay it by, ſince the World will not be perſuaded a Man can riſe to Perfection in more than one Art, and that his continuing to exerciſe his Mind in Muſic, wou'd by degrees alienate it from the Art he publickly profeſſed, ſince there cou'd not be Room in one Head for Idea's and Conceptions for both. Yet we cannot Impeach the Prudence of this Pretender to ſuch Cures, ſince it is certainly Wiſdom in a Perſon, when he finds one Courſe will not Anſwer his Ends, to try another. But the Concluſion you ask from thence, can only be, that he has not Buſineſs enough to employ his Time on the Cure of the Eyes, otherwiſe he wou'd naturally be prevented of making thoſe other attempts. We believe Mr. *Grant* (who is a Perſon of liberal Underſtanding) declines not ſuch matters, as being leſs capable for Performance, but on the contrary, that his greater Judgment finds him Work enough on the Eyes to take all his Time of his Hands, and to leave no vacancy for other attempts. And this we muſt ſay in his Praiſe, it being to our certain Knowledg, that never Artiſt proceeded with greater Honor, ſince we have actually known him to declare to ſome who wou'd have been his Patients, with the Temptation of Plenty of Guineas, that they were Incurable, and wou'd not meddle with them, the exact Reverſe of which has been notoriouſly reported on the other Perſon. As one intent of our Paper was to give Merit its due, for the Incouragement of Art (as we ſhall be ready to do on all Opportunities) ſo we hope, we have not varied from our Projection herein.

Q. Gentlemen, *Why have Diſtracted Perſons commonly a good Memory?*

Yours, &c.

A. This Queſtion was Anſwer'd in our firſt Volume, which is now Printing in Octavo, and will very ſpeedily be Publiſhed.

POEMS.

BODLEIAN LIBRARY

Q. SO ho! Sir APOLLO,
Who ſo nimbly fly,
With Chariot Wheels Smoaking,
Aloft in the Skie,
While ſo Swift you paſs,
Which way can you know,
The Cares and Concerns,
Of Poor Mortals below;
If Daphne *outſled*
Your addreſſes uncivil,
She ſure had the Art,
Of outflying the Devil.
Stand ſtill, but one moment,
It is I inſiſt on,
Juſt while I have Time,
For the ſtating my Queſtion,
And then with one laſh,
And without further Trouble,
The Time you have loſt,
You will get again double;
Or ſay you ſhou'd not,
It woud add to the Day,
And all but the wretched,
Are Glad of your Stay.

My

My Query is this,
Which while I adore ye,
I'll lay with a World
Of Submiſſion before ye.
Pray what is the reaſon,
That in the Hot weather,
When Friendly we meet,
To be Merry together,
You Taint all our Victuals,
And are ſo unkind,
That Maggots in every
Mouthfull we find.
For every one owns,
That your Rays alone give,
An Influence whereby
They have Power to live.
'Tis true your warm Beams,
Our Wines *all mature,*
And when you moſt Smile,
Oth' beſt we're ſecure;
But if you infect thus,
And Spoil all our Meat,
We ſoon ſha'n't want Drink
When we've nothing to Eat.

A. Poor Ignorant Creature,
To fancy the *Sun*,
His *whole Godhead* muſt,
With his Chariot run:
Not knowing thoſe Powers
Are *Ubiquitary*,
And both there and here,
Tho't ſounds ſo contrary,
Then at the *Antipodes*
He is as near,
In *Virtue* tho'n in *Perſon*
He may not appear.
Your Queff, void of Reaſon,
Is not worth our Time,
And yet we will ſolve it,
For ſake of the Rhyme:
You 'ccuſe us, that we
All your Viands inſect;
When th'Occaſion ariſes,
From your own neglect.
'Tis true of our Virtue,
You Judge not amiſs,
Since the *Spring* of all Life,
From our Influence is;
Yet if you prevent but
The *Flies* coming near,
In your Meat you no Maggots,
Need ever to Fear.

Q. APOLLO, *I am a Young Fellow of warm Inclinations, and have ſuch Tender Feelings when I ſtrive to expreſs any thing that pleaſes me, that (by Nature) I am apt to think my ſelf qualified for a* POET, *Your Opinion.*

* *At ſight of her whom I adore,*
I live, I dye, I am no more,
Such ſoft Extatic Raptures rowl,
Thro' all th' Avenues of my Soul.
I ſigh, languiſh, and look ſo ſweet,
'Till by ſome chance her Eyes I meet;
Then oh! what Tranſports do I feel?
Words cannot tell, nor I conceal,
My Eyes (as in Fruition) flow,
† *With ſwelling Pleaſures, ſo you'll know.*

* 18 Minutes after 8. † 24 Minutes after 8.

So I have been 6 Minutes, they are without Alteration from the pregnant Brain of,

Your moſt devoted Humble Servant,

Sir George Airy.

A And yet for ought we know, theſe Lines might take you from after eight in the Morning, to after eight at Night,

Had you leaſt Genius for a *Poet*,
And uncontefted Truth you'd know it;
That one ſlight ſtrain, tho' nimbly done,
Cou'd ne'er alas, confirm you one;
And on ſuch common Topics, which
Young Striplings at the School bewitch;
Tho' all they rally, is no more,
Than ſaid a Thouſand times before.
If you'd attempt the Deathleſs Fame,
To join with *Bards* of glorious Name,
In ſome untrodden Paths purſue,
A Subject as Sublime as *New*;
But there (except your *Wit* flows faſter)
You will but be a *Poetaſter*.

However we'll allow you to retain the Name of *George Airy*, if it be only to teach little Birds Songs.

SIR,

THE Advices from Bruſſels, Jan. 5. are that the Letters from Madrid of the 23d paſt, ſay, That General Stanhope was carry'd Priſoner thro' Segovia and Valladolid, to Leon; That in the Battle of the 10th, the Spaniards had their Center and Left Wing entirely defeated, and loſt all their Guards; That Count Stremberg remain'd Maſter of the Field of Battle; That the firing Guns for Victory, was forbidden in Spain; and that the Dutcheſs of Anjou was ſaid to have ſet out from Vittoria the 20th, in order to proceed on her Journey to France, by the way of Longrono and Pampeluna; That other Letters adviſe, that King Charles arriv'd at Barcelona the 17th paſt, with ſome Hundreds of Horſe,

and

and that his Catholic Majesty immediately order'd the Equipment of all the Shipping there, to go and draw off all the Troops that could be spar'd from Sardinia and Minorca; That the Advices from France leave us no room to doubt of General Staremberg's safe Retreat, wit a Body of Troops; That the Electors of Cologn and Bavaria, are said to be gone to the French Court; and that the latter is flatter'd with the Command of a little Army, next Summer, on the side of the Maes.

London, January the 1st.

His Grace the Duke of Marlborough embark'd on Saturday last for England, arriv'd at Solebay on Tuesday at 5 in the Evening, and at his Lodgings at St. James's, between 7 and 8 on Thursday Night.

Which is all from Yours, &c.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

At a Certain Charge.

ON Thursday last the 28th of December at the Office of Insurance on Marriage and Births in the little Piazza Covent-Garden, was open'd two Books on Marriage by way of a Weekly Payment and Dividend; One on the Payment of 10 *s. per* Week to receive the Dividend of 1000 *l.* The other on the Payment of 3 *s. per* Week to receive the Dividend of 300 *l.* Any Person Subscribing to both Societies may recieve 1300 l. and the first 200 will be at liberty to make their Claims in 2 Months

AT the Office of Insurance on Marriage, in *Bolt-Court*, *Fleet-Street*, any Person by Paying 2 s. for a Policy, Stamps and Entrance, and 2 *s.* towards each Marriage, until their own, may secure to themselves 200. *Note*, Ten Persons, for 4 *l.* 6 *s.* by them paid, received above 390 *l.* and Two others, in 14 Days will receive near 200 *l.* and after that time each Claim will amount to above 120 *l.* which will be daily more and more, till full, which sufficiently shews the Advantages of this Office are much greater than any other of this kind pretend to.

A General Meeting of the Subscribers was held at *Sadler's-Hall*, in *Cheapside*, on *Thursday*, *October* the 19, 1710, and a Second Six Trustees were added to the former, to whom Security is given, pursuant to the Proposals which may be had *Gratis*, at the Office.

AT the Faithful Office of Insurance at the Widow Pratt's Coffee-House, in Cat-Eaton-Street, by St. Lawrence's Church, nigh Guild-Hall; were lately opened Two Subscriptions upon Marriage, One of 5 s. which entitles the Insurer to 500 l. and the Other 2 s. 6 d. which entitles the Insurer to 250 l. and as many as Insure in both, will be entitled to 750 l. provided the Societies be compleat, otherwise in proportion. Note, any Person, if they come speedily may enter upon 3 Months. ——— At the same Place, are open'd Two Subscriptions on Births of Children, One of 5 s. and the Other 2 s. 6 d. where the Subscribers will be entitled to the respective Summs above mention'd. In both these Societies on Births, any Person may enter upon 6 Weeks or 2 Months, and so on to 5 Months and no further, by which means these Offices will undoubtedly subsist and be carried on from Year to Year. Note, that herein, we do not oblige any Person to Baptize their Children, but only to bring a Certificate that the Child lived 24 Hours after its Birth. Proposals may be had Gratis, at the Office, where constant Attendance is given.

FROM the Office of Insurance on Marriage, in King's Head Court, in Petticoat Lane, near Bishopsgate Street.

Notice is hereby given, that since the Death of Mr. Tho. Edwards late Director of this Office, the same is continued by his Widow and Actor therein, where daily Attendance is given, and Policies delivered out as usual.

N. B. This Office hath met with such success, that above Fourteen Hundred Persons have already subscribed, and it is not doubted but it will be compleat within 5 or 6 Weeks, that Claims will begin to be paid by the 16th Instant, the said Mr. Edwards having, before his death, caused 12 Trustees to be chosen at Sadler's-Hall, to whom Security is given, according to the Articles of Settlement, and the said Trustees are resolved to support and encourage the said Widow and Administratrix in this lawful Undertaking.

The Office on Births is in like manner continued, where daily Attendance is given and Policies delivered out as usual.

THE Front side of a good House, Situate in a Clear Airy Court, in Fleet-street, not far from Temple-Bar, is to be Lett, with great Conveniencies, commodious for five or six in Family. Enquire at Seward's Coffee-House, in Three-King-Court, Fleet street.

A Patent under the Great Seal of England has been granted to Charles Holman in Red-Lion-Street in Southwark, for the making of his London Ink-Powder for Records. Being Most Excellent for all Persons to make their Writing-Ink as black and as strong as they please. Each Six-penny Paper makes a Pint of the best, or Pint and half, or Quart for Shop-keeper's common Writing or Marking-Ink, only by shaking or stirring it in so much Rain or River-Water; and it amends all weak and pale Ink, or Ink spoiled by the Frost, and Directions to each Paper of Powder, to prevent Ink from Freezing. 'Tis Sold by most Stationers, Booksellers and Haberdashers in and about London; and by Shop-keepers in the chiefest Cities and Towns in England. And that none may be imposed on by any false Pretenders, Cheats or Counterfeits, this only has been publickly Experienced for many Years, and Appoved for the best Ink in most parts of the World.

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